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Annual report of the selectmen and other town officers of the town of Acworth New Hampshire, for the year ending December 31, 2003.

Acworth Town Representatives

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Town
of
Acworth
New Hampshire

2003
Annual Report

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2003

Annual Report

of the

Selectmen

and other

Town Officers

of the

Town of Acworth

New Hampshire

For The Year Ending December 31, 2003

*Please Bring this Town Report to Town Meeting
on Tuesday, March 9, 2004*

Printed by The Letter Man Press, Claremont, NH

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TOWN OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Moderator	Kenneth Grant - 2005
Board of Selectmen	Lyman Young -- 2004 John Balla -- 2005 Thomas Esslinger -- 2006
Town Clerk	Brenda Longley -- 2004
Tax Collector	Kelly Sanchas
Treasurer	Earl Luther Jr Scott Luther-Houghton
Supervisor of Checklists	Roselva A. Dearden -- (Resigned on 03/03) Rose Knight – (Apt to run until 3/2004) Gordon H. Gowen – 2006 Elizabeth Gowen -- 2009
Overseer of Public Welfare	Selectmen
Health Officer	Donna Dutton
Trustees of Trust Fund	Kathi Bradt - (Resigned 9/03) John Demars – (Apt to run until 3/2004) Alston Barrett – 2004 Marguerite Hanson – (Resigned in 2003) Leroy Underwood – (Apt to run until 3/2004)
Library Trustee	Marguerite Hanson - 2004 Ruth Balla – 2005 Ella Brown -- 2006 David McWethy - 2006 Melinda Loiselle - 2006
Administrative Assistant to Board of Selectmen	Kathi Bradt

Budget Committee

Ralph Balla - 2004
Hugh Gendron - 2004
Linda Christie - 2005
Torrey Greene - 2005
James Brown - 2006
Stephen Davis - 2006

Road Agent

Kerry Smith

Road Committee

Charles Bradt - 2004
Hugh Gendron - 2004
Howell Longley - 2005
James Phinizy - 2005
J. Matthew Balla - 2006
Ralph Balla - 2006

Planning Board

William Symonds - 2004
Bruce Bascom - 2004
Richard Bishop - 2005
Stephen Davis - 2005
Robert Chamberlain - 2006
Douglas Robinson - 2006

Alternates

Pam McWethy
Ken Gagnon
Brenda Longley

Conservation Commission

Debbi Hinman - 2004
Hugh Gendron - 2004
Samuel Stephens - 2005
Peter Wotowiec - 2005
John Demars - 2006
Rob DeValk - 2006
Lyman Young - Selectmen

Alternates

Lianna Haubrich
Barbara Davis
David DelGenio

Cemetery Trustees

Ruth Balla - 2004
Jane Esslinger - 2005
Hanford Auten - 2006

Tree Warden

G. Kristian Fenderson

Zoning Board of Adjustments

Edward Metsack - 2004
Patrick LaClair - 2004
Rob DeValk - 2005
James Phinizy - 2006
Gary Dutton - 2006
Peter Wotowiec

Alternate

Recreation Committee

Mary Lord and anybody else who would like
to be On with her (see the Board of Selectmen)

Fall Mt. Regional School Board
Member

James Elsesser

Town Forester

Peter Rhoades

Recycling Committee

Kerry Smith
Sam Stephens
John Tuthill
Peter Wotowiec

REGULAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TOWN HALL	835-6879
SELECTMEN	EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT 7:30PM LYMAN YOUNG, CHAIRMAN
TOWN CLERK	MON., TUES., & WED., FROM 6:30PM – 8:00PM SAT. MORNINGS 9:00AM – 11:00AM BRENDA LONGLEY – CLERK – 835-6757
PLANNING BOARD	LAST WED., OF THE MONTH AT 7:30PM RICHARD BISHOP, CHAIRMAN
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	SECOND WED., OF MONTH – 7:30PM SAM STEPHENS, CHAIRMAN
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS	FIRST WED., OF MONTH AT 7:30PM EDWARD METSACK, CHAIRMAN
RECYCLING COMMITTEE	FIRST TUES., OF MONTH AT 7:30PM TOWN HALL
RECREATION COMMITTEE	SECOND MON. AT 7:00PM
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	SECOND TUES., 9:30AM – AT LIBRARY
LIBRARY HOURS	SUNDAY 1:00PM - 4:00PM TUES. & THURS. 10:00AM – 4:00PM
DUMP HOURS	SAT. 8:00AM – 4:00PM WED. 11:00AM – 6:00PM SUN. 9:00 – 1:00PM
EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS	FIRE - 352-1100 CLAREMONT DISPATCH - 542-7040

WARRANT FOR TOWN OF ACWORTH
MARCH 9, 2004

To the inhabitants of the Town of Acworth, NH in the County of Sullivan in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to bring your votes for Town Officers, and any other questions, to the Town Hall on Tuesday, the ninth day of March next, between the hours of 10:00 of the clock in the morning until nine of the clock in the evening to act upon the following:

ARTICLE ONE: To vote by non-partisan ballot for the following Town Officers:

Selectmen: 1 for 3 Year Term
Town Clerk: 1 for 3 Year Term
Tax Collector: 1 for 1 Year Term
Treasurer: 1 for 1 Year Term
Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 Year Term
Library Trustee: 2 for 3 Year Terms
Budget Committee: 2 for 3 Year Terms
Road Committee: 2 for 3 Year Terms
Planning Board: 2 for 3 Year Terms

ARTICLE TWO: To vote by non-partisan ballot for minor refinements in Acworth's FEMA National Floodplain Insurance Program ordinance as recommended by the NH Office of State Planning in a memorandum dated June 19, 2000.
By request of the Planning Board.

Furthermore, you are hereby notified that discussion and voting on the following articles will commence at 7:30 of the clock in the evening on March 9 next at the Town Hall:

ARTICLE THREE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$350,000 (Three hundred and fifty thousand dollars) for the construction of an addition to and renovation of the Acworth Town Hall with \$50,000 (Fifty thousand dollars) to come from the Fund Balance and \$300,000 (Three hundred thousand dollars) of sum to be raised through the issuance of a 10 (Ten) year bond or note under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 etseq., as amended; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. And furthermore to authorize the Selectmen to finalize the building design and work as overseers of the construction.
Estimated tax impact \$.77 per 1000 valuation.
Estimated total interest at 3.89%: \$64,996.

The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article. A 2/3 ballot vote required. Polls must remain open one hour after discussion. Discussion of other business can continue during that time.

ARTICLE FOUR: To see if the Town will accept the minutes of the Town Meeting of March 11, 2003.

ARTICLE FIVE: To see if the Town will empower the Selectmen to serve as pound keepers, measurers of wood and fence viewers.

ARTICLE SIX: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

ARTICLE SEVEN: To see if the Town will advise the Selectmen by nonbinding vote to transfer the responsibilities of the Acworth Police Department to the office of the Sullivan County Sheriff.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

ARTICLE EIGHT: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (Fifteen thousand dollars) to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund (created in 2000) for the purchase of Highway Equipment.

The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article.

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten thousand dollars) to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund (created in 2003) for the future purchase of a fire truck.

The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article.

ARTICLE TEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Twenty thousand dollars) to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund (created in 2001) for the future revaluation of the Town.

The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Forest Management Fund into the General Fund up to \$4000.00 of net revenue from the 2003-2004 Gove Town Forest timber harvest, not to exceed 50% of the final harvest income.

The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article.

ARTICLE TWELVE: To see if the Town will vote according to RSA 231-A to change Dodge Brook Road, beginning at the (Cold) River Road and proceeding to the Acworth-Lempster town line, from a Class VI road to a Class A trail to allow hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling, as appropriate.

By Petition.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to sell the Grange Hall to the Acworth Historical Society for the sum of \$1.00 (One dollar). This will free the Town from liability associated with the building. The Historical Society will assume legal costs related to transfer of title and ownership. Anticipated purpose is to restore a venerable historic landmark for the storage and display of historic items with limited seasonal access. Actual ownership to be transferred upon significant progress being made toward these ends within the next 5 (Five) years at which time the Selectmen would be empowered to dispose of the property and building as they see fit.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$350,000 (Three hundred and fifty thousand dollars) for the construction of an addition to and renovation of the Acworth Town Hall with \$50,000 (Fifty thousand dollars) to come from the Fund Balance.
Estimated tax impact \$6.33 per 1000 valuation.
The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article in the event Article Six fails.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: To see if the Town will vote to raise sums of money as may become necessary to defray town charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations of the same as recommended in the Budget by the Budget Committee.

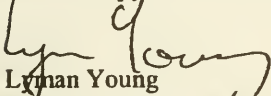
ARTICLE SIXTEEN: To see if the Town will vote as recommended by the Conservation Commission and Selectmen to sell the Morris Lot (56-871), the Shaw Lot (13-227A), and the Turner Lot (8-68A).

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 41:25, to set the Town Clerk's salary at \$2000 (Two thousand dollars) plus the first \$1000 (One thousand dollars) of fees collected by said Town Clerk's office.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this Town Meeting.

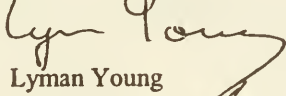
Given under hands and seal of the Town of Acworth this 16th day of February, 2004.

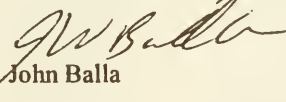
A True Copy of Warrant Attest:


Lyman Young

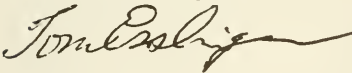

John Balla

Board of Selectmen

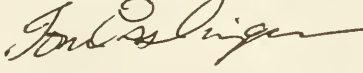

Lyman Young


John Balla

Thomas Esslinger



Thomas Esslinger



2004 BUDGET FOR TOWN OF ACWORTH

	Appropriations	Expenditures	Select-men's Budget	Recommended
Purpose of Appropriation	2003	2003	2004	2004
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
Executive	12,000	12,600	12,240	12,240
Elec., Reg. & Vital Stat.	1,500	1,097	3,500	3,500
Financial Administration	10,500	10,997	11,000	11,000
Revaluation of Prop.	2,500	5,222	5,000	5,000
Legal Expense	15,000	13,251	15,000	15,000
Planning & Zoning	1,300	1,887	2,000	2,000
	NOT RECOMMENDED			2,400
Gen. Government Bldgs.	7,000	5,841	7,000	7,000
Cemeteries	3,000	1,930	5,000	5,000
Insurance	10,000	9,320	11,000	11,000
Advertising & Reg. Assoc.		803	800	800
Town Office Exp.	38,000	38,272	40,000	40,000
PUBLIC SAFETY				
Police	23,100	24,677	26,670	26,670
Ambulance	2,870	2,870	5,740	5,740
Fire	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
"	NOT RECOMMENDED			10,000
Emergency Mgmt	2,000	173	2,000	2,000
HIGHWAYS & STREETS				
Highways & Streets	175,000	153,709	185,000	185,000
FEMA Grant Expenses		2,802	54,642	54,642
Street Lighting	2,100	1,808	2,100	2,100
Other	30,000	60,626	40,000	40,000
SANITATION				
Solid Waste Disposal	69,000	69,404	69,000	69,000
Solid Waste Clean-up		21,690		
HEALTH/WELFARE				
Pest Control	1,000	2,055	2,500	2,500
Health Agencies	8,000	2,536	8,000	8,000
Vendor Payments & Other	2,500	5,217	5,000	5,000
CULTURE & RECREATION				
Parks & Recreation	1,600	982	1,800	1,800
Library	23,600	23,600	17,350	17,350
Patriotic Purposes	150	175	200	200
CONSERVATION				
Admin. &				
Purchase of Nat. Resources	600	600	600	600
	NOT RECOMMENDED			100
Other Conservation Mill Foil		3,443	3,500	3,500
DEBT SERVICE				
Int. on Tax Anti. Notes	1,000	-0-	1,000	1,000

Purpose of Appropriation	Appropriations 2003	Select- Expend- itures 2003	men's Budget 2004	Recom- mended 2004
CAPITAL OUTLAY				
Bldgs./Furniture			5,000	5,000
Improvements Other Than Bldgs.	60,000	21,295	40,000	40,000
OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT				
To Special Revenue Fund				
Con. Com.		2,000		
Forest Main.		11,573	12,000	12,000
SUBTOTAL 1	525,320	534,555	616,642	616,642
		<u>NOT RECOMMENDED 12,500</u>		
SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES				
Dump Clos. Reserve	25,000	25,000	-0-	-0-
Equipment Fund	70,000	69,840	15,000	15,000
Fire Truck Reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Reval/Maps			20,000	20,000
Town Hall Add./Renovation			350,000	350,000
SUBTOTAL 2 RECOMMENDED	630,320	639,935	395,000	395,000

SOURCE OF REVENUE

	Estimated Revenues 2003	Actual Revenues 2003	Estimated Revenue 2004
TAXES			
Land Use Change Taxes	1,000	10,170	2,000
Timber Taxes	18,000	14,258	15,000
Int. & Penalties			
on Delinquent Taxes	15,000	13,273	17,000
Excavation Tax	50	69	70
LICENSES, PERMITS & FEES			
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	85,000	95,550	90,000
Bldg. Permits		1,620	1,400
Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	750	794	750
FROM FED. GOVERNMENT*Grant		57,444	
FROM STATE			
Shared Revenues	9,700	9,721	9,700
Meals & Rooms Tax Dist.	20,000	25,031	24,000
Highway Block Grant	114,791	114,791	117,447
State & Fed. Forest			
Land Reimbursement	350	342	350

	Estimated Revenues <u>2003</u>	Actual Revenues <u>2003</u>	Estimated Revenue <u>2004</u>
CHARGES FOR SERVICES			
Income from Depts.	3,000	5,113	4,500
MISC. REVENUES			
Sale of Municipal Prop.	1,000	13,211	10,000
Int. on Investments	5,000	4,604	3,500
Other	11,000	454	
INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS IN			
From Spec. Revenue Funds	4,000	4,000	4,000
From Cap. Reserve Funds	45,000	21,689 (dump) 44,840 (equip)	
From Trust & Agency Funds	-0-	1,443	1,500
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Proc. from Long Term Bonds & Notes			300,000
Amts. Voted from F/B (surplus)			50,000**
Fund Bal. to Reduce (surplus) Taxes	60,000		104,642*
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE & CREDITS	393,641	438,417	755,859
*(54,642 = FEMA -- 50,000 = Surp.) **For Town Hall			

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Prior Year Adopted Budget	Selectmen's Recommended Budget	Budget Committee's Recommended Budget
Subtotal 1 Appropriations	525,320	616,642	616,642
Subtotal 2 (Spec. War. Art.)	105,000	345,000	395,000
Total Appropriations	630,320	1,011,642	1,011,642
Less: Amt. of Est. Revenues & Credits	393,641	755,859	755,859
Est. Amt. of Taxes to be raised	236,679	255,783	255,783

To the inhabitants of the Town of Acworth, NH in the County of Sullivan in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to bring your votes for Town Officers, and any other questions, to the Town Hall on Tuesday, the 11th day of March next, between the hours of 10:00 of the clock in the morning until nine of the clock in the evening to act upon the following:

ARTICLE ONE: Voted by non-partisan ballot for the Town Officers

Selectmen – Thomas Esslinger – 3 year term
Tax Collector – Kelly Sanchas - 1 year term
Treasurer – Earl Luther Jr. – 1 year term
Auditor – Cheryl Fernald
Trustee of Trust Funds – Kathi Bradt – 3 year term
Library Trustee – Ella Brown – 3 year term
Library Trustee – Dave McWethy – 3 year term
Library Trustee – Melinda Loiselle – 2 year term
Road Committee – Matthew Balla – 3 year term
Road Committee – Ralph Balla – 3 year term
Planning Board – Robert Chamberlain – 3 year term
Planning Board – Douglas Robinson – 3 year term
Budget Committee – James Brown – 3 year term
Budget Committee – Stephen Davis – 3 year term
Cemetery Trustee – Ruth Balla – 1 year term
Cemetery Trustee – Jane Esslinger – 2 year term
Cemetery Trustee – Hanford Auten III – 3 year term

ARTICLE TWO: Voted by ballot vote for adoption of an amendment to the Acworth Zoning Ordinance of a RULES OF PROPORTIONALITY which will allow a fairer subdivision of parcels of land which lie partially in both the rural and residential districts. It clears up the problem of which regulations apply in determining lot size and frontage length. The Acworth Planning Board has approved this amendment.

YES 139 NO 62

ARTICLE THREE: Voted by ballot for adoption of ACWORTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ORDINANCE approved by the Acworth Planning Board in April 2002. These regulations have been enacted in order to establish General guidelines for the siting of towers and antennas. This ordinance will enhance the ability of providers of telecommunications services to provide such services to the community effectively and efficiently while protecting the environment, safety and aesthetics of Acworth.

YES 170 NO 43

Furthermore, you are hereby notified that discussion and voting on the following articles will commence at 7:30 of the clock in the evening on March 11th next at the Town Hall.

ARTICLE FOUR: Motion was made by Caroline Barth and seconded by Thomas Matthauser to accept the minutes of the Town Meeting of March 12th, 2002. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE FIVE: Motion was made by Raphael Nabatoff and seconded by Ralph Balla to empower the Selectmen to serve as pound keepers, measurers of wood and fence viewers. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE SIX: Motion was made by Thomas Matthauser and seconded by James Brown to transfer from the Forest Management Fund into the General Fund up to \$4000.00 of net revenue from the 2002-2003 Gove Town Forest Timber Harvest, not to exceed 50% of the final harvest income. Recommended by Selectmen and Budget Committee. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE SEVEN: Motion was made by John Huber and seconded by Raphael Nabatoff to accept the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-d 1. Authorizing the public library trustees to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the library for any public purpose, and such authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of town meeting. II Prior to the acceptance of any gift valued at over \$5,000, the public library trustees shall hold a public hearing on the proposed acceptance. III No acceptance of any personal property under the authority of this section shall be deemed to bind the town or the library trustees to raise, appropriate, or expend any public funds for the operation, maintenance, repair, or replacement of such personal property. By request. Recommended by Selectmen. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE EIGHT: Motion was made by John Huber and seconded by Ralph Balla to accept the provisions of RSA 202-A:11-a All money received from a library's income-generating equipment shall be retained by the library in a nonlapsing fund and used for general repairs and upgrading and for the purchase of books, supplies and income-generating equipment if approved by the town or city in which the library is located in accordance with RSA 202-A:11-b. By Request. Recommended by Selectmen. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE NINE: Motion was made by John Huber and seconded by John Dearden to accept \$200.00 in trust for the perpetual care of the Ernest S and Geneva W. Lanphear Lot in the Acworth Cemetery. Recommended by the Selectmen. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE TEN: Motion was made by Raphael Nabatoff and seconded by Peter Wotowiec to provide formal conservation status to the town-owned parcels known as the "Acworth Town Wetlands" and the "Gove Town Forest" by placing a conservation easement through an appropriate land conservation organization (such as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests) Said easement would preclude future building development on these parcels in the interest of maintaining their current respective status as wetland natural area and working forest. Petition by the Acworth Conservation Commission. Not Recommended by Selectmen. The Article was voted by ballot vote. The ballot vote was as follows: YES 88 NO 61
The Motion Passed.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: Motion was made by Thomas Matthauser and seconded by Raphael Nabatoff to call on our elected officials from all levels of government, and those seeking office, to work with consumers, businesses, and health care providers to ensure that: Everyone, including the self-employed, unemployed, un- and underinsured, and small business owners, has access to an affordable basic health plan similar to what federal employees receive; Everyone, including employers, consumers, and the state, local and federal government, makes a responsible and fair contribution to finance the health care system; Everyone receives high quality care that is cost efficient and medically effective; and That these efforts help control the skyrocketing cost of health care. By Petition. Not Recommended by Selectmen.
Motion was made by Thomas Esslinger and seconded by Lyman Young to table Article Eleven indefinitely. Everyone was in favor. Motion passed.

ARTICLE TWELVE: Motion was made by Ralph Balla and seconded by Torrey Greene to change the Road Agent position from appointed to elected; and to hold a special meeting for said position in May 2003. By Petition. Not Recommended by Selectmen. By request of Petitioners we had a ballot vote.
YES 41 NO 104
Motion was defeated.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: Motion was made by Torrey Greene and seconded by John W. Balla to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the future closure of the town dump. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
Motion Passed.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: Motion was made by James Brown and seconded by John Huber to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) for the purchase of a new highway department loader-backhoe and further to expend from the existing Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund up to \$45,000.00 (Forty-Five Thousand Dollars) for this purpose. Recommended by Selectmen & Budget Committee. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: Motion was made by James Brown and seconded by Thomas Esslinger to authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund (Pursuant to RSA 35) for future work on Cold Pond Road and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in this fund and appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. Recommended by Selectmen and Budget Committee. Motion was Defeated by a show of hands.

YES 43 NO 84

Motion was Defeated.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: Motion was made by Kelly Sanchas and seconded by Torrey Greene to see if the Town will participate in a discussion concerning whether the Village Store Property could house town offices. The Acworth Historical Society has an interest in using an existing and historical building and helping to secure the store's presence in the town. To see also if the town would consider whether a committee should be established and money budgeted to develop this idea. By Petition. Not Recommended by the Selectmen.
Motion was Defeated.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: Motion was made by James Brown and seconded by Raphael Nabatoff to see if the town will vote to authorize the establishment of a capital reserve fund (Pursuant to RSA Chapter 35) for the future purchase of a fire truck by the Acworth Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed in this fund, and to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this article subject as agents of an appropriate plan by the Fire Department. Following discussion, John Huber made a motion to change "the Acworth Fire Department" to "the Acworth Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc." in the original motion.
Motion passed as amended.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN: Motion was made by John Huber and seconded by Ralph Balla to see if the town will raise sums of money as may become necessary to defray town

charges for the ensuing year and make appropriations of the same as recommended in the Budget by the Budget Committee excluding \$50,000 for work on Cold Pond Road.
Motion passed.

ARTICLE NINETEEN: Motion was made by Hanford Auten III and seconded by Diantha Schierloth to see if the town will vote to determine whether or not the Town of Acworth should encourage the Trustees of the Trust Funds to petition the Sullivan County Probate Court or the Sullivan County Superior Court for permission to spend accrued excess income from eligible perpetual care trusts on the general care, capital improvements or future expansion of the cemetery. This is an advisory vote.
Recommended by the Selectmen.
Motion was defeated.

ARTICLE TWENTY: Motion was made by Ed Metsack and seconded by Rapheal Nabatoff to see if the town will ask our Congressional delegation to oppose the implementation of sections of the Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act which stand in violation of American's basic rights and freedoms. The USA Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act contain provisions threatening the guarantees of freedom and liberty set forth over two hundred years ago in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution: Freedom of speech, Right of assembly, Protection of privacy, The right to counsel and due process, Protection against unreasonable search and seizure. By Petition.
Motion passed.

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE: Motion by Doug Robinson and seconded by Mary Bishop to see if the town will vote to allow the Selectmen to discuss and authorize the sale of the Grange Hall building to the Acworth Historical Society for future multi-purpose public use.
Motion was defeated.

Meeting recessed to count ballots.

Meeting adjourned after ballots were all counted.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Longley
Town Clerk

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
YEAR ENDING 12-31-2003**

DEBITS

			<u>Prior Levy Years</u>	
<u>Uncollected Taxes</u>	<u>Levy</u>			
<u>Beg. of Year</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Property Taxes		110,301.71		
Land Use Change		1,130.00		
Other taxes		45.00		
<u>Taxes Committed</u>				
<u>This Year</u>				
Property Taxes	1,076,320.70	80,527.98		
Land Use Change	5,900.00			
Yield Taxes	14,035.71			
Interest	1,307.77	3,555.61		
Penalties		50.00		
Excavation Tax	69.68			
Conversion to Lien		34,586.04		
Other Charges		717.00		
<u>Overpayment</u>				
Property Taxes	323.65	134.07		
Cost before lien		447.00		
Int. - Late Tax	1,307.77	6,671.12		
Penalties - other taxes		-25.00		
TOTAL DEBITS	1,265,120.87	119,450.90		

CREDITS

<u>Remitted to Treasurer</u>		
Property Taxes	1,076,320.70	80,527.98
Land Use Change	5,900.00	
Yield Taxes	14,035.71	
Interest	1,307.77	3,555.61
Penalties		50.00
Excavation Tax	69.68	
Conversion to Lien		34,586.04
Other Charges		717.00
<u>Abatements Made</u>		
Property Taxes	1.553/39	14/28
Yield Taxes	140.92	
<u>Uncollected Taxes</u>		
Property Taxes	160,169.95	
Land Use Change	5,400.00	
Yield Taxes	222.76	
TOTAL CREDITS	1,265,120.87	119,450.90

*** ON LEVIES OF ***

DEBITS	<u>Last Year's 2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>Prior Levies 2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
<u>Unredeemed Liens -</u>				
<u>Beg. of Year</u>		38,727.15	11,675.03	
Liens Executed				
During Year	34,953.04			
(After Lien Execution)	215.06	4,892.10	3,108.58	
TOTAL DEBITS	35,168.10	43,619.25	14,783.61	
CREDITS				
<u>Remitted to Treasurer</u>				
Redemptions	6,607.42	25,251.35	11,431.50	
Interest & Costs	215.06	4,686.59	3,108.58	
Abatements of Unredeemed				
Taxes	218.79	36.44		
Unredeemed Lien Bal.	28,126.83	13,644.87	243.53	
TOTAL CREDITS	35,168.10	43,619.25	14,783.61	

TREASURER'S REPORT
Detailed Statement of Revenues for 2003

From tax collector

Property taxes current year	\$ 1,076,251.43
Property taxes prior year	109,481.44
Property tax redemptions	43,290.27
Property tax overpayments	250.99
Land use change tax	7,030.00
Timber yield taxes current year	14,035.71
Excavation tax	69.68
Interest and costs late taxes	17,220.12
	<hr/> 1,267,629.64

From town clerk

Motor vehicle permit fees	95,550.50
Dog licenses and penalties	791.50
Filing fees	3.00
	<hr/> 96,345.00

From State of New Hampshire

Shared revenue block grant	9,721.00
Meals and room distribution	25,031.43
Highway block grant	114,791.44
Forest land reimbursement	342.60
FEMA funds for road repairs	57,444.39
	<hr/> 207,330.86

From miscellaneous sources

Transfer station fees	5,113.00
Cemetery lot sales	225.00
Grove lot timber sales	11,573.42
Sale of 81 GMC dump truck	710.00
Insurance proceeds	703.38
Interest income on deposits	3,593.13
Dividend NH Municipal Association	1,011.50
Rental of town property	350.00
Civil forfeitures	75.00
Recycling proceeds	29.40
Building permit fees	300.00
Planning board fees	548.10
Sale of histories and maps	430.00
Miscellaneous fees	342.24
Reimbursement from forest maintenance funds	1,443.50
Transfer from forest maintenance funds	4,000.00
Transfer from capital reserve - dump closure	21,689.98
Transfer from capital reserve - equipment	44,840.00
	<hr/> 96,977.65

Total revenues	\$ 1,668,283.15
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TREASURER'S REPORT

Detailed Statement of Expenditures for 2003

	Jan - Dec 03
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Expense	
Executive expenses	
Selectman-John W. Balla	1,500.00
Selectman-Lyman A. Young	1,500.00
Selectman-Thomas H. Esslinger	1,500.00
Treasurer-Earl F. Luther, Jr.	1,000.00
Deputy treas-S Luther-Houghton	1,000.00
Tax collector-Kelly Sanchas	3,500.00
Deputy tax coltr-Kenneth Gagnon	500.00
Town clerk-Brenda Longley	2,000.00
Health officer-Donna Dutton	100.00
Total Executive expenses	12,600.00
Elections	
Ballots	89.75
Public notices	115.40
Stipends-election officials	892.00
Total Elections	1,097.15
Payroll tax expenses	
Payroll taxes-animal control	41.13
Payroll taxes-cleaning	109.42
Payroll taxes-dump attendant	652.48
Payroll taxes-highway	7,197.76
Payroll taxes-police	940.97
Payroll taxes-town office	1,042.81
Payroll taxes-town officers	1,012.66
Total Payroll tax expenses	10,997.23
Revaluation of property	5,221.53
Legal expenses	13,250.80
Planning and zoning	
Manuals, ballots	89.75
Miscellaneous expenses	1,303.73
Public notices	493.70
Total Planning and zoning	1,887.18
Town hall	
Wages - cleaning	1,430.00
Cleaning, shoveling	272.79
Electricity	669.64
Fuel oil	1,463.13
Mowing	906.14
Repairs	919.65
Supplies	179.57
Total Town hall	5,840.92
Cemeteries	
Wages - cemeteries	1,330.50
Payroll taxes-cemeteries	101.79
Cemetery maps	291.90
Miscellaneous expenses	205.65

TREASURER'S REPORT

Detailed Statement of Expenditures for 2003

	Jan - Dec 03
Total Cemeteries	1,929.84
Insurance	
Property and liability	4,893.50
Road agent disability	293.30
Unemployment comp	207.74
Workmens comp	3,925.87
Total Insurance	9,320.41
Regional planning associations	
UVLSRPC annual dues	803.00
Total Regional planning associations	803.00
Town office expenses	
Wages-admin. assist.	13,631.61
Wages-office help	637.32
Bank service charges	115.85
Computer software and support	3,335.43
Deed office recording fees	356.70
Miscellaneous	1,370.77
Office equipment	1,297.94
Office supplies	1,602.88
Outside consultants	9,510.00
Postage	1,204.75
Public notices	1,826.34
Telephone	1,343.39
Town reports	2,069.00
Workshops and training	70.00
Total Town office expenses	38,371.98
Police	
Wages-police	12,300.00
Cruiser gas	1,534.06
Cruiser maintenance	4,146.19
Dispatch	2,773.46
Office space rent	1,560.00
Office supplies	781.08
Publications	251.85
Radio	450.00
Supplies	514.05
Telephone	366.80
Total Police	24,677.49
Ambulance	2,870.00
Fire	
Acworth VF&R	22,000.00
Total Fire	22,000.00
Emergency management	
Miscellaneous	172.52
Total Emergency management	172.52
Highway maintenance	
Wages-highway	94,151.81

TREASURER'S REPORT

Detailed Statement of Expenditures for 2003

	Jan - Dec 03
Health insurance	16,992.14
Culverts	1,274.33
Emergency plowing	120.00
Emergency tow	1,019.40
Materials-gravel and shurpak	16,510.89
Miscellaneous	5,837.50
Mower, chipper and equip rental	3,100.00
Salt	3,502.44
Sand screening and piling	11,200.00
Total Highway maintenance	153,708.51
Street lighting	1,808.34
Highway - general expenses	
Diesel fuel	8,981.41
Electricity	1,003.58
Gas	564.42
Heating oil	3,106.90
Miscellaneous	1,683.61
Repairs, parts	38,602.71
Supplies	2,549.89
Telephone	602.00
New equipment	3,531.26
Total Highway - general expenses	60,625.78
Solid waste	
Wages-dump attendant	8,528.70
Compactor trucking/rental fees	7,414.45
Demolition disposal fees	16,435.30
Electricity	306.70
Hazardous waste disposal	470.05
Metal disposal fees	2,075.00
Miscellaneous supplies	1,214.51
Mixed paper disposal	49.85
NH/VT SWP current year	27,519.84
NH/VT SWP settlement pymt	4,000.00
Telephone	454.40
Tire disposal	934.75
Total Solid waste	69,403.55
Animal control	
Wages-animal control	672.50
Animal trapping	420.00
Dog tags	137.42
State fees	187.50
Supplies	638.00
Total Animal control	2,055.42
Health and other agencies	
Alstead Food Shelf	600.00
Community Kitchen	350.00
Sullivan County Hospice	250.00
S W Community Services	500.00
Home Healthcare Hospice & CS	836.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

Detailed Statement of Expenditures for 2003

	Jan - Dec 03
Total Health and other agencies	2,536.00
Welfare	5,216.81
Recreation	
Electricity	248.60
Miscellaneous expense	20.76
Mowing	330.00
Portable toilet	45.00
Trout stocking	337.50
Total Recreation	981.86
Library	
Wages-library	10,669.85
Payroll taxes-library	816.24
Library appropriation paid	12,051.27
Telephone	62.64
Total Library	23,600.00
Memorial day expenses	175.00
Conservation commission	
CC association dues	175.00
Crescent Lake testing	202.02
Miscellaneous expense	212.37
CC appropriation paid	10.61
Total Conservation commission	600.00
Conservation preservation	
Crescent Lake Milfoil Committee	2,000.00
Forester services-town forest	1,443.50
Total Conservation preservation	3,443.50
Road projects and paving	21,294.75
FEMA grant expense road repairs	2,801.75
Landfill closure	21,689.98
Backhoe/loader	69,840.00
Capital reserve - dump closure	25,000.00
Capital reserve - fire truck	10,000.00
Sullivan County	187,506.00
FM Regional School District	814,225.00
Forest maintenance fund	11,573.42
Conservation commission fund	2,000.00
Tax abatements refunded	254.38
Tax overpayments refunded	250.99
Tax liens by town	34,953.04
Total Expense	1,676,584.13
Net Ordinary Income	-1,676,584.13
Net Income	-1,676,584.13

TREASURER'S REPORT
Comparative statement of appropriations and expenditures for 2003

Appropriation title	Approp. amount	Expend. amount	Unexpended	Overdraft
GENERAL BUDGET				
Town officers' salaries	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Elections and registration	1,500.00	1,097.00	403.00	
Payroll tax expenses	10,500.00	10,997.00		497.00
Revaluation of property	2,500.00	5,222.00		2,722.00
Legal expenses	15,000.00	13,251.00	1,749.00	
Planning and zoning	1,300.00	1,887.00		587.00
Town hall expenses	7,000.00	5,841.00	1,159.00	
Cemeteries	3,000.00	1,930.00	1,070.00	
Insurance	10,000.00	9,320.00	680.00	
Regional planning assoc.	-	803.00		803.00
Town office expense	38,000.00	38,372.00		372.00
Police	23,100.00	24,677.00		1,577.00
Ambulance	2,870.00	2,870.00		
Fire	22,000.00	22,000.00		
Emergency management	2,000.00	173.00	1,827.00	
Highway maintenance	175,000.00	153,709.00	21,291.00	
Street lighting	2,100.00	1,808.00	292.00	
Highway equip, parts, fuel	30,000.00	60,626.00		30,626.00
Solid waste disposal	69,000.00	69,404.00		404.00
Animal control	1,000.00	2,055.00		1,055.00
Health and other agencies	8,000.00	2,536.00	5,464.00	
Welfare	2,500.00	5,217.00		2,717.00
Parks and recreation	1,600.00	982.00	618.00	
Library operations	23,600.00	23,600.00		
Memorial day expenses	150.00	175.00		25.00
Conservation commission	600.00	600.00		
Conservation preservation	-	3,443.00		3,443.00 *
Interest expense	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	
Road projects and paving	60,000.00	21,295.00	38,705.00	
subtotal	525,320.00	496,490.00	74,258.00	45,428.00
SPECIAL ARTICLES				
FEMA road repair expense	-	2,802.00		2,802.00 *
Landfill closure	-	21,690.00		21,690.00 *
Backhoe/loader	70,000.00	69,840.00	160.00	*
Cap. res. - dump closure	25,000.00	25,000.00		
Cap. res. - fire truck	10,000.00	10,000.00		
subtotal	105,000.00	129,332.00	160.00	24,492.00
TOTALS	<u>\$ 630,320.00</u>	<u>\$ 625,822.00</u>	<u>\$ 74,418.00</u>	<u>\$ 69,920.00</u>

*See detailed statement of revenues for amounts paid from other sources.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Summary of accounts held by treasurer for 2003

General checking account

Beginning balance 1/1/03	\$ 1,258.95
Transfers from money market	1,673,953.04
Transfers from forest maintenance savings account	5,443.50
Expenditures per treasurer's report	(1,676,584.13)
Various refunds reported net of expense account	(484.78)
Performance bonds refunded	(2,000.00)
MMA bank charges included in above	10.00
Ending balance 12/31/03	<u>\$ 1,596.58</u>

General money market account

Beginning balance 1/1/03	\$ 419,100.28
Revenues per treasurer's report	1,668,283.15
Above revenues deposited to checking account	(5,443.50)
Highway block grant for 2004 received in advance	45,246.29
Various refunds reported net of expense account	484.78
Bank charges	(10.00)
Transfers to general checking	(1,673,953.04)
Ending balance 12/31/03	<u>\$ 453,707.96</u>

Conservation commission savings account

Beginning balance 1/1/03	\$ 5,734.41
LUC tax proceeds	2,000.00
Balance of appropriation	10.61
Interest income	35.71
Ending balance 12/31/03	<u>\$ 7,780.73</u>

Forest maintenance savings account

Beginning balance 1/1/03	\$ 5,281.91
Timber sale proceeds	11,573.42
Interest income	43.52
Forester expenses	(1,443.50)
Transfer to general fund	(4,000.00)
Ending balance 12/31/03	<u>\$ 11,455.35</u>

Town of Acworth
Balance Sheet (All Funds, Comparative)
December 31, 2003 and 2002

	Dec 31, 03	Dec 31, 02
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking #1010239	1,596.58	1,258.95
Money market #7002688	453,707.96	419,100.28
Savings #1131686-Cons. Comm.	7,780.73	5,734.41
Savings #1131694-Forest Maint.	11,455.35	5,281.91
Total Checking/Savings	474,540.62	431,375.55
Other Current Assets		
Taxes receivable - property tax	160,169.95	110,301.71
Taxes receivable - luc tax	5,400.00	1,130.00
Taxes receivable - timber yield	222.76	0.00
Allowance for abatements-propty	-500.00	-500.00
Tax liens receivable-2000 levy	243.53	11,675.03
Tax liens receivable-2001 levy	13,644.87	38,921.62
Tax liens receivable-2002 levy	28,126.83	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	207,307.94	161,528.36
Total Current Assets	681,848.56	592,903.91
TOTAL ASSETS	681,848.56	592,903.91
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
School district payable	338,168.00	340,790.00
Deferred Highway Block Grant \$	45,246.29	0.00
Gove Lot performance bonds	0.00	2,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	383,414.29	342,790.00
Total Current Liabilities	383,414.29	342,790.00
Total Liabilities	383,414.29	342,790.00
Equity		
Fund balance-general	279,198.19	239,097.59
Fund balance-conservation comm	7,780.73	5,734.41
Fund balance-forest maintenance	11,455.35	5,281.91
Total Equity	298,434.27	250,113.91
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	681,848.56	592,903.91

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Municipal Finance Bureau

2003 Tax Rate Calculation

TOWN PORTION

Gross Appropriations	630,320		
Less: Revenues	(391,287)		
Less: Shared Revenues	(4,100)		
Add: Overlay	3,279		
Add: War Service Credits	3,925		
Net Town Appropriation	242,137		
Special Adjustment	-		
Approved Town Tax Effort		242,137	
Town Rate per \$1,000			5.11

SCHOOL PORTION

Net Local School Budget	-		
Regional School Apportionment	1,256,255		
Less: Adequate Education Grant	(444,652)		
Less: State Education Taxes	(228,479)		
Approved School Tax Effort		583,124	
Local School Rate per \$1,000			12.31

STATE EDUCATION TAXES

State Equalized Valuation (no utilities)	46,438,855		
State Education Rate per \$1,000	4.92		
Approved State School Tax Effort		228,479	
State Education Rate per \$1,000			4.97
based on local assessed valuation			
(no utilities) of \$45,969,750			

COUNTY PORTION

Due to County	187,506		
Less: Shared Revenues	(1,046)		
Approved County Tax Effort		186,460	
County Rate per \$1,000			3.93

TOTAL COMBINED TAX RATE PER \$1,000

26.32

Total Property Taxes Assessed	1,240,200
Less: War Service Credits	(3,925)
TOTAL PROPERTY TAX COMMITMENT	1,236,275

	local assessed valuation	tax rate per 1,000	taxes assessed
PROOF OF TAX RATE			
State Education Tax (no utilities)	45,969,750	4.97	228,479
All Other Taxes	47,387,817	21.35	1,011,721
		26.32	1,240,200

**TOWN OF ACWORTH
TOWN CLERK REPORT 2003**

Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	95,550.50
Dog Licenses & Penalties	791.50
Filing Fees	<u>3.00</u>
Total	96,345.00

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Town Hall and Land 01-001	\$109,000
Contents	7,000
Library and Land 01-005	113,000
Contents	63,000
Police Dept. Equipment	5,000
Town Garage and Land 66-517	74,700
Equipment	220,000
Materials and Supplies	6,000
Grange Hall and Land 06-183	56,000
Town Common 01-001A	28,000
Sand Pit, Transfer Station 66-517	15,000

Subtotal	696,700
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Land Acquired Through Tax Collector's Deeds:

Roberts Lot 28-380C	14,800
Howard Estate Lot 13-231A	17,600
Ball Lot 58-466	6,900
Buss Lot 26-357	8,300
Callum Lot 61-485	2,000
Champney Lot 16-260	11,600
Crescent Lake Lot 08-101B	7,900
Farnsworth Lot 73-279A	39,300
Gove Lots 10-207, 207A, 208, 208A And Fournier Lot 209 merged	328,800
Hurd Lots 08-55C, 59B	33,400
Jennison Lot 32-623	28,100
Morris Lot 56-871	6,300
Nelson Lot 32-618A	11,400
Onofrio Lot 03-140A	18,100
Prouty Lot 38-649	7,100
Shaw Lot 13-227A	9,900
Turner Lot 08-68A	13,000

Subtotal	564,500
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Land Acquired Through Gift or Purchase

Acworth Wetlands (Peirera/Diggert) Lots 16-263A, 263C, 255 merged to 253	16,000
Pierce Brook Lot 70-720	8,700
Ward Lot 53-422A	10,200
Mill Pond Acre/Mica Shed 05-176	10,900
Five Points School House Lot 59-464	7,000
Prince Lot 66-515A	1,600
Fournier Lot (included above)	

Subtotal	54,400
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Total	1,315,600
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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

The past year has seen promising developments in many of the Town's ongoing affairs.

Legislation was passed in 2003 which allowed small towns to avoid some of the costs of dump closure by implementing a groundwater management plan and program. In January we engaged Underwood Engineering to work with us and throughout the year they oversaw sample testing of ground water at the site and submitted a Groundwater Management Plan to the Department of Environmental Services. To date the testing has produced clean results and while we await a response to the plan from the state, it appears that closure of the dump will be far less costly than originally anticipated. Meanwhile, John Tuthill and the Recycling Committee have continued to work at improving our recycling operations. Our fee schedule while reasonable is not always honored which has lead to a decision to begin requiring payment of dump fees at time of delivery. This will go into effect April 1.

In the spring our long time Road Agent, Don Porter, retired and our Administrative Assistant, Grant Tallman, tendered his resignation. After advertising and interviewing the Board hired Kerry Smith as Road Agent and Kathi Bradt as Administrative Assistant. We are pleased with both of these new members of our team. Also over the course of the year the responsibilities of Treasurer have passed gracefully from Earl Luther to Scott Luther-Houghton. We have expanded our office hours and feel our administrative services are much improved with the increased contact between Treasurer, Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Administrative Assistant. In addition, the Town website is online and provides a convenient source of information about Town affairs.

A quarry owned by the Allstone Corporation received quite a bit of attention during the year. Various hearings took place which allowed for input from several town boards. Communication between all corners of town government seems essential to understanding the Town's role in such matters and we feel we are moving in that direction.

After what seems like years, the State and Verizon gave us our 911 Street Numbering System. Once everyone is used to the new numbers this system promises to expedite emergency service to the Town.

The Highway Department has had quite a year. Kerry Smith had to learn the ropes in a year that saw more rain than most can remember. We were fortunate enough to receive a FEMA grant for some of the worst damage but it came too late in the year to use. That money and work will be part of the Highway plan for spring 2004. After the rain came a series of equipment repairs which caused plowing delays that many of you are well aware of. We know we will be facing upgrading of equipment in the future but will give our new Road Agent a year to determine the department's needs.

The State has assigned us responsibility for updating of assessments by 2006. In anticipation of this we have met with firms and received proposals for the updating of the Town's tax maps. Our existing maps are about 25 years old and do not reflect many of the changes that have occurred. Updated maps will provide the necessary basis for updating assessments in the following years.

All of this activity taking place under one roof has lead us to consider again adding on to our Town offices. Over the year the Selectmen have measured out and drawn up a modest addition which meets the needs of the Town. At the same time we know many of you have concerns about the condition of the Town Hall so we have also estimated what would be necessary to restore that part of the building. Our public hearings on this subject have been small but positive so we have proceeded to include two articles on the warrant to accomplish the whole project. The first article would pay for the project over ten years and would add approximately \$77 per \$100,000 of value to tax bills. The second article would pay for the project in one year which would add approximately \$633 per \$100,000 of value to tax bills. The Town has seen a substantial increase in its total taxable property and there is also a committee looking into the sale of Town lands which have been previously designated for potential sale. In the long view and with this in mind, the financing of the project seems the most feasible.

We hope that you will attend the Town meeting this year and express your views on all of the various issues concerning the Town.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Selectmen

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The year 2003 was a busy one for the Recreation Committee.

Last winter skating took place at the Mica Shed rink.

In the spring, Hugh and Tammy Gendron put on a successful fishing derby at Luther's Pond for children and grandchildren of Acworth residents. Later in the season, Acworth had enough players to field a rookie baseball team coached by Deb Fielding. The Turkey Shoot Road baseball field got a face lift thanks to community and parent volunteers. The baselines and pitcher's mound were rototilled, filled with clay and lined.

In the fall, Acworth had two soccer teams: 5&6 year olds and 7&8 year olds. The younger team, coached by John Heavisides and myself, had only a few experienced players. This team will be stronger next year. The older team was coached by Brian Miller, Brian Gendron and Lisa Devalk. The field was prepared by parent volunteers and Grant Tallman who did a fantastic mowing job when needed. John Heavisides added to this effort by building a new set of soccer frames that will last for years to come. On Halloween we hosted an early pot luck dinner at the Town Hall complete with balloon stomps, piñatas, a costume parade and a trick or treat line.

Skating at the Mica Shed has resumed. We are hoping to get the ice a little smoother and have night time skates complete with hot chocolate and music. Later in 2004 we hope to expand the use of the Mica Shed area. We plan to keep it mowed through the summer and have at least one picnic table by the river. Summer arts and crafts and a youth soccer clinic are also in the works.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this year a success. There are several seats available on the Committee; if you are interested in serving, please contact the Selectmen.

Mary Lord

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The Planning Board scheduled 15 meetings during 2003. Three of the meetings were special sessions to deal with completing new subdivision regulations. No major subdivisions came before the Board but there were numerous minor subdivisions. Work on an updated Master Plan continues with expectations that it will be completed in 2004. New maps have been ordered from UVLS Regional Planning Commission for inclusion in the Master Plan.

Extensive time was devoted to consideration of the Osgood Ledge mining permit being sought by the Allstone Corporation. A letter of comment was sent by the Board to the NH department of Resources and Economic Development. Commissioner George Bald of the department assured us that our concerns and recommendations will be given serious consideration.

The Non-residential Site Plan Regulations were taken seriously by Allstone Corporation even though the State, not the Town, has the power to grant the permit. In another application of the Non-residential Site Plan Regulations, a permit was given to Belliveau stables on Livermore Road for the construction of an indoor arena.

The Board has not yet begun action on an Acworth Capital Improvements Plan as recommended by the State. The objective of this plan is to help the Town budgeting process classify projects according to their urgency over a time period of at least 6 years. Matters such as town administrative space, road improvements, school concerns, recreational development, library expansion, fire, police and ambulance service, elderly services, environmental concerns, and waste removal would be looked at and classified. State funding, grants and gifts, often depend on the development of a Capital Improvement Plan.

It has been suggested that the Board review Zoning Regulations during 2004. Some of the issues that have been cited are multiple housing on one lot, development of cluster housing regulations, better control of mining and gravel operations, enforcement of regulations, lot size, frontage and building codes.

The Planning Board continues to seek the participation of more Acworth citizens in its meetings and committees. Please contact one of the officers or members if you are interested.

Rich Bishop, Chairman

John Balla, Vice Chair and Selectman

Bill Symonds, Secretary

Bruce Bascom

Rob Chamberlain

Steve Davis

Doug Robinson

Pam McWethy, Alternate

Ken Gagnon, Alternate

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

My ten year old personal computer that I use for the Police Department has gone 10-2 so I am not able to gain access to any of the information needed for this report. I am doing the best I can from my paper trail and printed reports.

The Department has been very busy this past year. I handled 1500 calls, not as many as last year; however, these calls were more time consuming.

The calls consisted of numerous juvenile, domestic, 911 and burglary incidents which kept me in the courts more than past years.

I will place a complete report in the Newsletter when I can get all the information.

The Department needs to be brought up to date with a computer and programs that will do the job properly instead of the antique equipment I now use.

David A. Webber, Chief

ACWORTH VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE CO., INC. REPORT

The Acworth Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co., Inc. is a private non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting Acworth persons and property. We are certified by the State Fire Marshall's Office and subject to all laws relating to emergency services, and by governing regulations from the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office and the US Internal Revenue Administration. We own the fire station, the Acworth Post Office building, three trucks and various other emergency equipment. All members are volunteers receiving no financial compensation.

Like most people, we would like to just do our jobs and go back home satisfied that we have accomplished something worthwhile. As things become ever more complex, however, we must also be alert to technical and legal matters. We must have a signed contract and an adequate budget to meet these needs.

Last year we asked for \$32,000 as our service contract. For some reason, the amount requested was approved but a portion of it retained by the Town toward future purchase of a truck for the "fire department". Since the Town does not have a fire department, we believe the voters intended that those funds be appropriated to the Acworth Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co., Inc. as we requested.

Although anticipated costs are up, we have not asked for an increase for the coming year but we do expect the full \$32,000 if we are to continue operations. This annual fee for services covers all costs of operation. There are no other tax monies used and no additional fees to anyone receiving our services.

Keeping up with certification requirements, technology, and generally rising prices is expensive and getting more so every year. We've already learned that the SWFMA assessment will increase from \$2145 to \$5740 next year. Insurance for 2003 was over \$6000. Maintaining a building, trucks and aged equipment costs keep rising. Radio repairs alone totaled nearly \$900 this year. Size and types of disasters can't be accurately predicted, but funds must be readily available when they happen.

A major capital expense is also facing us. Our pumper and tanker trucks are 31 and 32 years old with all the problems one might expect of such old vehicles. This obviously is not a surprise, but every year the situation becomes more desperate and cost of a new truck keeps rising. We have

been saving toward this for several years. We now expect to make a reasonable down payment followed by regular loan payments for a new pumper/tanker to replace the two old trucks. The new truck will meet modern standards as required by NFPA 1901. Other outdated equipment will be replaced as soon as we can afford it.

There were 49 calls this year. Seven were Acworth fires, and three were for mutual aid to other towns. Rescue calls totaled 29. The rest were public service of various types, such as fallen trees on property, vehicle accidents, or fuel leaks. Volunteers also scrubbed and painted the exterior of the station.

We lost three valuable members who moved or retired but gained two new members. Craig Lawler and Jay Phinizy received recognition awards for more than 30 years of service. We were very sad to lose another long-time member when David Lyle died this year,

We invite anyone interested in learning more about our organization and especially anyone thinking of becoming a volunteer to come to a regular meeting on the second Thursday of each month, or to drop by any Sunday morning when there is usually someone around the station.

To all who have shown support with donations, labor, or important kind words, we offer a big thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Elbert Knicely, Chief

ROAD AGENT'S REPORT

2003 has been quite a year for me as well as the crew. I spent much of May getting acquainted with roads, people, equipment and the budget. It did not take long to see that the position was going to be a challenge.

June came and Don Porter left (smiling). Now it was time to go to work. First objective was to reshape Cold Pond Road, getting the ditches working again. This took a little over a week. I started the permitting process for the Crescent Lake culverts as we were cleaning up winter sand and dirt from blacktop in preparation for paving. After the permits were complete we replaced 10 culverts. Due to poor weather during the fall, the paving of Crescent Lake Road was postponed until spring.

Then came July and with it rain and more rain. We received over 50 inches of rain last summer which took its toll on our roads especially those already in poor condition. Those hardest hit were: Campbell (washed out 3 times), Putnam (impassable at one time), Ryan, Hoagland, Cold Pond, Bascom Hill, Lufkin, Black North/Quaker City, Charlestown, Duncan, Cobb Hill, Gove, Clark, Turkey Shoot.

After several meetings with FEMA Acworth received \$57,000 to repair the damage. We have 18 months to make the repairs. The Board of Selectmen and I agree it will be best to rebuild after mud season.

Our first snow occurred October 22 and with it the first of many breakdowns. The one-ton lost its front springs, then its transmission, then the rear end. The '74 Mack needed constant tinkering. In my opinion, this 30 year old truck should be replaced as soon as possible. The '96 Mack needed its sander rebuilt and new rear springs. Please keep in mind that when we are working on equipment we are not working on the roads.

I want to say that I enjoy working for the Town. My wife, Maggie, and I have built a house on Heino Road and consider Acworth home. I hope to serve as Road Agent for years to come. Thank you for your patience and one last thought: good roads are easier to maintain!

Kerry Smith, Road Agent

LIBRARY REPORT

This year we said goodbye to Holly Shaw who has gone on to be full time children's librarian at the Charlestown Library. Many thanks to Holly, especially for her effort in inventorying the library's holdings and securing two significant grants.

The Children's Literacy Foundation, which last year provided our library with \$1300 of children's books, completed their grant with a well-received author/illustrator visit to the Acworth School last fall. The second grant, from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, brought us two state-of-the-art library grade computers and a high-speed laser printer. The computers, which have internet access, CD drive and many reference programs, have been in almost constant use during library hours.

The new computer system was just one of the technological transitions which I became part of when I stepped into my job in mid-April. Another was the newly up-and-running NH Automated Information System. Through this system each one of you has speedy access to every book in the public libraries across New Hampshire. I love ILL! (Inter-Library Loan); if its in New Hampshire libraries, we can get it for you! Try it!

A third major project, still in progress, is the cataloging of historical photographs from the Acworth archives. These will be scanned onto CDs for high quality preservation; would you like to volunteer to help? We expect to eventually be able to sell CDs of all the Acworth photos.

I have needed to pick up a lot of skills in a short time. Many thanks to Barbara Clark for her helpfulness and insights from her decades as a librarian, and also to Yumiko Ito for sharing some of my library hours while I teach math at the high school and raise our two young girls.

If you haven't stepped in our doors recently, please come visit. Check out the latest books, tapes and videos, see the bird collection, become acquainted with our computers, ride the Magic Schoolbus, make copies or print a page. We'd love to see you. (Winter hours T & Th 11-4, Sun 11:30-4:30)

Bresca Gagnon
Library Administrator

ACWORTH SILSBY LIBRARY TRUSTEES REPORT

The Acworth Library made a giant step forward this year with the acquisition of two computers. The Library Trustees are always concerned about the relevance of our library, and its role in Acworth. With these computers, we now have a remarkable resource, with powerful internal programs like the Encarta Encyclopedia, Powerpoint and website building software, as well as internet connection for research or communication.

All of this was entirely funded by a generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has donated computers to libraries across the United States. The computers were designed for library use, and were donated with special training to assure their successful use. We were very fortunate to be included.

The computers are busy almost all the time the library is open, and our librarian, Bresca Gagnon, reports that people who use them also check out books when they leave. Today we asked two people who were sitting at the computers what they were doing. One was checking and sending email, and she uses the computer to write documents. The other was a student, who uses the internet for research for school assignments, and then writes papers on the computers.

While the computers connect us with the greater world, Bresca is constantly updating our collection of books to give us a sampling of current publications. The reach of the library is extended by the interlibrary loan system, which gives us access to libraries all over New Hampshire. Bresca has brought new energy and enthusiasm which has helped make the library an interesting and enjoyable place to visit and work in.

One project that the computer will help is our effort to scan and digitize the library's historic photo collection. Our intention is to both protect the pictures and to make them more accessible to all. We hope to find pictures beyond the library's collection, from townspeople who might have pictures from the old days, that we can copy and return, and include in the electronic collection. If you have pictures we should see, please contact Dave McWethy or Bresca.

We want to express thanks to the library staff and volunteers, and to the Friends of the Library. All have been working hard to make the library a great place and great service.

Dave McWethy, Library Trustee

ACWORTH SILSBY LIBRARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2003

BEGINNING BALANCE CHECKING	1881.81	
BEGINNING BALANCE SAVINGS	16906.96	
BEGINNING BALANCE CD	33177.97	51966.74

TOWN APPROPRIATION

RECEIVED FROM TREASURER	12051.27	
SALARIES PAID BY TREASURER	10669.85	
SOC SEC PAID BY TREASURER	816.24	
TELEPHONE LONG DISTANCE	62.64	+23600.00

INCOME FROM TRUST FUNDS	834.02	
INTEREST ON SAVINGS & CD	640.81	
BOOK SALES & MISC	657.61	
MISC COPY FEE & SERVICES	130.00	
CRAFT FAIR	240.00	+2502.44

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS	215.00	+215.00
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TOTAL AVAILABLE 78284.18

TOTAL SPENT OPERATING 27191.80
TOTAL SPENT CAPITAL 625.86
-27817.66

BALANCE AVAILABLE 50466.52

ENDING BALANCE CHECKING	2406.99
ENDING BALANCE SAVINGS	14297.42
ENDING BALANCE CD	33762.11

TOTAL 50466.52

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS 2003

During the past decades we have witnessed many changes in the New Hampshire statutes, regulations, and the generally accepted ways of handling private trust funds and Town capital reserve funds. In recent years, financial market conditions were conducive to investing private trust funds in liberal ways to achieve higher yields of interest and to increase capital gains.

The principal of private trust funds has been accepted by vote at Town meetings to be held forever, in the custody of the Trustees of Trust Funds, with only the interest to be used for the directed purposes.

With the first acceptance of \$100.00 in 1913 for upkeep of a lot in the cemetery, and \$150.00 in 1916 for the benefit of the Acworth Silsby Library, individuals have since created 116 private trust funds. These funds must be accounted for and reported individually.

During the past three years the value of invested principal peaked and showed convincing indications of further decline. Therefore, all trust accounts in mutual funds were sold at the end of 2002, and proceeds were deposited with the Government Banking Division of the Citizens Bank.

This action involving the sale of over \$275,000.00 in trust assets resulted in substantial capital gains in most accounts and a six percent loss in one account. The latter account was a recent investment made in October 2000, as the financial markets entered a period of decline. Most other accounts were purchased about ten years ago.

In addition to the above managerial action, this transfer accomplished better compliance with the applicable paragraphs of RSA 31:19-31:38-a. It also was intended to comply more closely with the generally accepted investment practices for trusts, which include:

- A. Safety of principal
- B. Liquidity of principal
- C. Yield of interest

Respectfully submitted, Alston Barrett
John Demars

REPORT OF TRUST FUNDS OF THE TOWN OF ACWORTH ON DECEMBER 31, 2003
MS-9

Name of Trust Fund	Purpose - Category	Principal				Income				Grand Total	
		Balance Beginning Year	Additional Funds	Cash Gains or Losses	Withdrawals	Balance Year End	Beginning Year	Income	Expended		Balance Year End
Highway Equipment	Capital Reserves	45,000.00		102.08	44,305.83	796.25	1,485.68	764.14	534.17	1,715.65	2,511.90
Property Revaluation	Capital Reserves	50,000.00				50,000.00	760.73	883.98		1,644.71	51,644.71
Town Dump Closure	Capital Reserves	25,000.00	25,000.00		21,689.98	28,310.02	0.00	219.41		219.41	28,529.43
Fire Truck	Capital Reserves	0.00	10,000.00			10,000.00	0.00	0.48		0.48	10,000.48
Sub Total - Capital Reserves		120,000.00				89,106.27	2,246.41	1,868.01	534.17	3,580.25	92,686.52
E & G Lamphear Lot 2003	Cemetery	0.00	200.00			200.00	0.00	1.17		1.17	201.17
Sub Total - Town Cemeteries		13,056.36				13,256.36	86,107.93	892.92	0.00	87,000.85	100,257.21
R Mitchell Fund FBO Old Cemetery	Cemetery	5,000.00				5,000.00	610.16	50.25		660.41	5,660.41
R Mitchell Fund FBO Cemetery Fund	Cemetery	10,000.00				10,000.00	1,298.20	101.16		1,399.36	11,399.36
Sub Total - Cemetery Funds		15,000.00				15,000.00	1,908.36	151.41	0.00	2,059.77	17,059.77
R & C Jeffrey Memorial Library Fund	Library Trust	73,068.88				73,068.88	0.00	649.10	649.10	0.00	73,068.88
S Codman Hislop Fund FBO Silsby Library	Library Trust	14,620.39				14,620.39	0.00	129.97	129.97	0.00	14,620.39
Acworth Memorial Library Fund	Library Trust	6,101.27	50.00			6,151.27	0.00	54.95	54.95	0.00	6,151.27
Sub Total - Library		93,790.54				93,840.54	0.00	834.02	834.02	0.00	93,840.54
R Mitchell Fund FBO Town of Acworth	Town Trust	5,000.00				5,000.00	607.96	50.23		658.19	5,658.19
F Richard & C Jeffrey Memorial VNA Fund	Town Trust	55,840.41				55,840.41	2,725.64	520.92	600.75	2,645.81	58,486.22
Sub Total - Town Trust		60,840.41				60,840.41	3,333.60	571.15	600.75	3,304.00	64,144.41
		302,687.31	35,250.00	102.08	65,995.81	272,043.58	93,596.30	4,317.51	1,968.94	95,944.87	367,988.45

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

2003 was another uneventful year for me as the Health Officer of Acworth.

I did help procure a chemical toilet for a summer resident on Crescent Lake. Most homes on the lake have indoor facilities; the few remaining outhouses are illegal and their owners need alternative systems to stay on the lake.

I also posted information I received about inoculations and well testing.

Since most people do not know what a Health Officer does, I do not receive many calls; the Select board does. If you need information concerning health related issues such as wells testing, well distance from sewers, having your house inspected for foster care, etc., call me at 863-9205 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Donna Dutton
Health Officer

SOLID WASTE REPORT

The NH/VT Solid Waste Project reports that Acworth sent 330 tons of solid waste to the Wheelabrator Claremont Company's incinerator during 2003. This is down one ton from the 2002 figure and includes slightly more than 13 tons shipped for private accounts in Acworth by Waste Management of New Hampshire. Waste Management is the parent company of Wheelabrator. Private hauling from Acworth to the incinerator appears to have more than doubled in the past year, a trend the town needs to watch carefully.

Acworth shipped approximately 100 additional tons of construction and demolition debris and bulky waste for land filling during the year. Currently the estimated cost for shipping and disposal of C&D waste is in the vicinity of \$150/ton as compared to around \$115/ton for shipping and incineration of waste in Claremont. In July 565 tires were shipped from the transfer station at a cost of \$130/ton for slightly more than 7 tons. It cost the town about \$1.65 per tire for disposal.

At a town wide daily average of 2400 lbs of waste, Acworth residents are generating around 3 lbs of solid waste per person per day. This figure does not include scrap metal, glass, brush or recycled material.

Considering the total number of tons of waste shipped from the Acworth transfer station in 2003 and the total cost of operating the transfer station for the year, the cost to collect, ship and dispose of Acworth's solid waste is close to \$160/ton. With investment in infrastructure this figure could be reduced somewhat: more recycling to reduce disposal costs, segregation of some C&D waste for processing, and taking advantage of new markets for scrap metal in the region.

The town collects fees for the disposal of C&D waste, large appliances, bulky waste such as furniture, mattresses and carpeting, scrap metal and tires. Revenue collected from fees covers less than a third of the cost of disposing of the materials listed above. There is no fee charged to residents for disposing of residential trash in the compactor where waste is collected for incineration.

There is more recycling in Acworth each year. During 2003 the town changed from a volunteer run collection and separation system to a commingled recyclable program offered by the Northeast Resource Recovery Association using full size over the road bins for fill. The total

weight of recycled products shipped to market was about 48 tons. Recycling revenue comes close to covering shipping and handling costs and saved the town over \$5000 in avoided expense for disposal in 2003.

Keene hosted the regional waste collection during the summer and participation was up from prior years. The hazardous waste collection for 2004 will be running from March 31 to June 19 at the Keene Recycling Center off Route 12N just south of the Westmoreland town line. More information will be made available by the town.

The NH/VT Waste Project has begun to discuss waste management plans for the future. The 20 year contract with Wheelabrator expires in 2007. At that time the two waste districts associated with the Project, and their constituent towns, will have options to consider. Currently the Project is gathering information and encouraging discussion among all involved parties. A central question is whether or not towns wish to continue in a regional organization or disband and manage waste and recycling on their own or in smaller multi-town groups.

During the summer an ad hoc recycling committee began meeting on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, at the Town Hall. The committee will track budget and tonnage figures in preparation for planning in the post 2007 period. The committee is appreciative of Hank Carr's dedication as long time attendant at the town transfer station and for the regular assistance the Highway Department provides during the course of the year.

Acworth residents are reminded that state law prohibits open burning of solid waste.

Questions, comments and suggestions about the transfer station are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
John Tuthill

Acworth representative: Sullivan County Regional Refuse Disposal Dist.

HCS - HOME HEALTHCARE, HOSPICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
REPORT TO THE TOWN OF ACWORTH
JANUARY 1, 2003 TO DECEMBER 31, 2003

ANNUAL REPORT

In 2003, HCS - Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services continued to provide home care and community services to the residents of Acworth. The following information represents HCS's activities in your community over the past twelve months.

SERVICE REPORT

SERVICES OFFERED

SERVICES PROVIDED

Nursing	244 Visits
Physical Therapy	94 Visits
Occupational Therapy	9 Visits
Medical Social Worker	4 Visits
Outreach	10 Visits
Homemaker Hours	46 Hours
Home Health Aide	107 Visits
Home & Community Based Services*	2,587 Hours
Health Promotion Clinics	3 Clinics

*Home and Community Based Care is a Medicaid program which offers extended home care services to individuals who are in need of nursing home level care but can be maintained at home for a lower cost.

Total Unduplicated Residents Served: 28

Regularly scheduled wellness clinics, child health clinics, prenatal and hospice care are also available to residents. Services such as adult in home care and nutrition consultations are also offered to homebound residents. Town funding partially supports these services.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The actual cost of all services provided in 2003 with all funding sources is \$89,859.00.

These services have been supported to the greatest extent possible by Medicare, Medicaid, other insurances, grants and patient fees. The cost of services not covered by other funding sources was supported by the town appropriation of \$836.00.

For 2004, we request a total appropriation of \$2,000.00 to continue to be available if needed for home care services for Acworth residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

CEMETERY TRUSTEES REPORT

The Cemetery Trustees reviewed their statutory mandate and started the process of bringing the Town into compliance. Toward that goal, they examined the practices and procedures in other towns. After many revisions, rules and regulations were adopted as well as a form of certificate of ownership of grave sites. The rules and regulations may be seen on the new town web site. Pricing for grave sites was also brought more in line with the amounts charged in the surrounding small towns.

The Trustees have hired a firm to preserve the original map of the cemetery from further damage and deterioration. Additionally, work is currently in progress to identify the location of all sites that are covered by perpetual trust arrangements. This is being done in part to assist in the accessing of trust funds for their care and maintenance. Finally, a surveyor has been retained to establish an accurate record for the location of grave sites within the “new” part of the cemetery.

Hanford Auten, Trustee

Phone 802-463-3636
Fax 802-463-0023

Another milestone was passed in 2003 as we completed our 22nd year of service to the region. We have grown to become a true regional ambulance service, providing Emergency Ambulance Services to nine (9) communities in seven (7) towns in Vermont and New Hampshire. Over the years, we have been able to become a premier provider of Emergency Medical Services, dedicated to delivering professional, competent, and caring service to our residents and visitors. We are proud of this accomplishment, while recognizing the importance of the support of the towns in helping us to reach this landmark, and look forward to continuous partnership with the communities for years to come.

2003 proved to be another year of growth for LeFevre Ambulance Service. Not only in the volume of responses, but the professional growth of our staff as well. Our members have continued to expand their levels of certification, resulting in a consistently higher level of care provided to those in need. We recently hired another Paramedic. We now have several of our Paramedics certified at the Critical Care level, which allows them to function at the highest level of pre-hospital medicine possible in Vermont and New Hampshire. There is an ever increasing demand for these skills. Also, several of our staff have upgraded their skills from Basic to Intermediate level.

During 2003 we accepted delivery of a new Ford ambulance chassis and remounted a box from one of our older ambulances. This has proven to be very satisfactory.

LeFevre Ambulance Service has again been active in the area of education. Our staff has been instructing and coordinating EMS courses of all levels for the local EMS district, benefiting all interested towns and services within the area. Anyone wishing information on these classes is encouraged to call our non-emergency number for information.

Monthly training sessions are also held at our office in Bellows Falls. Any parties, especially Acworth EMS providers, are encouraged to attend. Please call one of our non-emergency numbers for a schedule of training.

We responded to the following calls in Acworth in 2003:

Emergency Calls	20
Emergencies without Transport	<u>8</u>
Total	28

We are grateful for the opportunity to be the provider of ambulance service to the town, and we are committed to the provision of the highest quality service available, and we look forward to continuing with this level of service. We would be remiss if we did not also acknowledge the superb services of the Fire and Rescue Departments within the town, whose dedicated, capable members allow the system to function at its best. A tremendous thanks to all of them.

Respectively submitted,

LEFEVRE AMBULANCE SERVICE, INC.

Gerald R. LeFevre, President

Our telephone numbers for your convenience:

Emergency	(802) 463-4223
Non-Emergency	(802) 463-3636/463-9299
Fax	(802) 463-0023

"WE CARE ABOUT PEOPLE"

2003 Acworth Conservation Commission Annual Report

2003 was another busy year for the conservation commission. Highlights included:

- Participation on the Master Plan Update committee with the Planning Board.
- Worked with Abe and Helen Sirkin as their family developed a conservation easement for their 116 acre property on Gove Road.
- Per vote of the 2003 town meeting, worked with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) and others to develop conservation easements for the Gove Town Forest and Acworth Wetlands.
- Completed the Town Lands Review. Also developed a town lands review policy, which the selectboard adopted.
- Assisted the Crescent Lake Association and Unity Conservation Commission with the annual water quality monitoring tests on the lake.
- Supported the Crescent Lake Weed Watchers in their tireless work to keep the lake free of the invasive aquatic weed, Eurasian Milfoil.
- Supported the Cold River Local Advisory Committee in their successful efforts to purchase equipment, complete their first full year of water quality monitoring and environmental education in schools around the watershed.
- Were able to establish three positions for “Alternates” to our commission. Barb Davis and Dave DelGenio have volunteered and been appointed.
- Communicated with other town boards and NH’s Department of Resources and Economic Development on the proposed Allstone Quarry application and other excavation issues in the area.
- At the selectboard’s request, we reviewed building permit applications near Acworth’s conservation zones and the lake’s Shoreland Protection Act area. We also review the wetland permit applications that come before the town.
- as well as the Intents to Cut.
- Held our annual Green Up Day in May. Many thanks to the many hard working community members, including 4-H and other young people who pitched in and made such a difference.
- Members attended workshops: “Keeping Stormwater Where it Falls”; “Land Protection”; “NHACC’s Annual Meeting/Workshops”; the Cold River Winter Workshop series plus a training session on Macro invertebrates (caddis flies, mayflies, etc) for their “Biomonitoring” project.

Town Forest Report: Established by town meeting vote in 1997, the almost 300 acre Gove Town Forest is located in the northeast corner of the town on the slopes above Crescent Lake. Timber production, wildlife management, watershed protection and outdoor recreation are the management goals for this property. The management of the Town Forest has been steady and productive due to the efforts of the Town Forest Advisory Board. Appreciation and thanks are extended to Rob Devalk, Sam Stephens, Debby Hinman, Ken Gagnon, Pam McWethy, Terry Callum, Peter Wotowiec, and Town Forester Peter Rhoades for their work, which included:

- The third annual forestry field hike led by Peter Rhoades, Town Forester
- Trail work completed by the Crescent Lake Regional Sno-Riders snowmobile club

- Completion of a winter timber harvest and preparations made for another in 2004.
- Preparations for boundary marking and surveying.
- Scouted and flagged a hiking trail to the summit of Gove Hill.
- Development of the conservation easement document for Town Forest
- Adoption of a Forest Maintenance Budget for 2004
- Recommendation of the transfer of monies from forest fund to town general fund

Conservation Easement Report: The commission performed its annual monitoring of private conservation easement properties in town that come under our purview.

- The “Raymond Roy” farm, owned by Paul and Verna Thibault
- The “Maude Moody” farm, owned by Bruce Bascom and family
- The “Clark Farm”, owned by David & Alvin Clark and family
- The “Pierce Brook” property, owned by Fred and Else Ernst.

Many other Bascom family acres are permanently protected with conservation easements. These lands are reviewed by other organizations than our own.

Finally, we would like to pay our respects to Barbara Kaiser who passed away last year. A former resident of Acworth, Barbara was a member of the conservation commission in the 1970’s.

The conservation commission meets from 7-9PM at the town hall on the second Wednesday of each month. The public is always welcome to attend. Thanks to all who lent a hand this year!

Sincerely,

Samuel R. Stephens, Chair

Deborah O. Hinman, Vice Chair

Members: Peter Wotowiec, Lyman Young, Rob DeValk, Hugh Gendron (Treasurer), John Demars

Alternates: Barbara Davis, David DelGenio.

Non-commission members of the Forest Advisory Board: Terry Callum, Ken Gagnon, Pam McWethy, Peter Rhoades

CRESCENT LAKE ASSOCIATION

We are very pleased to report that Crescent Lake continues to be a “clean” lake free from Milfoil/exotic plants. The diligent efforts of our lake hosts and volunteers monitoring the boat landing, proved to be a “huge” success. During two separate inspections, invasive species were found on boats.

Our Chair, Leroy Underwood and point person for the lake hosts did an excellent job of overseeing the program and preparing an extensive final report for the NH Lakes Association. The following are “highlights” from his report.

“Inspecting every boat and trailer before they enter the lake is the ONLY WAY to prevent invasive plants from getting into our clean lake!”

OUR GOAL:

- Inspect every boat and trailer before they enter our lake
- From the data obtained, 90% of all boats and trailers were inspected

BOAT LANDING MONITORING:

- Start and ending dates: June 14th through September 7th
- Paid Lake Hosts: Leah Haynes, Kris Huttar, Karla Underwood and Aaron Witham
- Total hours paid Lake Hosts: 846.75 hours
- Trained Volunteers: Tim Perry, Greta Perry, Bob Kroupa, Linda Kroupa and Jerry Bushway
- Total Volunteer hours: 211.25 hours
- Typical weekly schedule: 7:00AM to 6:30PM
- Number of inspections:
 - 377 boats inspected by Lake Hosts
 - 25 boats inspected by Volunteers
 - 402 total boats inspected
- Payroll at boat landing: \$7,620.00
- Thank you Lake Hosts and Volunteers for your professionalism, diligence and dependability

MILFOIL/EXOTIC PLANTS “FOUND”:

- Fanwork found August 9th on a boat that came from Motrose Reservoir in Connecticut
- Eurasian Milfoil found August 18th on a boat trailer in the wheel well; the boat had just come from the Connecticut River known as milfoil infested

MONEY: Paramount to the prevention of milfoil/exotic plants is having sufficient funds to cover the boat launch site enabling us to inspect 100% of all boats going into our lake.

GOALS FOR 2004:

- Boat and trailer inspections: June 5 – September 12, 6:00AM – 7:00PM daily, Inspect all boats
- Weed watcher patrol of shore lines
- Scuba divers inspect entire perimeter of the lake June 1 to determine the presence of invasive plants

PROPOSED BUDGET:

- Hours: 1274
- Dollars: \$11,466.00

INCOME FROM FUND RAISING: An on-going effort by Milfoil Committee members

- \$1655.00 – Donations from Crescent Lake residents
- \$ 522.00 – Donation from Acworth Garden Show
- \$2000.00 – Town of Acworth
- \$1000.00 – Town of Unity
- \$5177.00 – Total

SUMMARY: We don't want invasive plants in our lake. Prevention works and is the least expensive thing we can possibly do to keep the lake a place for everyone to enjoy.

Milfoil Committee members: Leroy Underwood (863 9286), Tim Perry (863 7107), Stan Rastallis (863 8838), John Demars (863 2973), Bob Kroupa (863 3080), Jerry bushway (863 9327), Jim Howe (863 5739) and Carol Calkins (863 1688)

Cold River Local Advisory Committee: 2003 Annual Report

Acworth, Alstead, Charlestown, Langdon, Lempster, Marlow, Unity, Walpole

The Cold River Local Advisory Committee (CRLAC) was formed when the Cold was designated a State Protected river by the State Legislature in 1999. The committee consists of citizen representatives appointed by selectboards from the five towns in the watershed that touch the river: Acworth, Alstead, Langdon, Lempster, and Walpole. The CRLAC is developing a River Management Plan that will guide its long-range work throughout the watershed. The committee also reviews all projects needing state and federal permits which could impact the river.

CRLAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2003

- Organized the third annual Winter Workshops series, which provided education about wetlands, amphibians, winter wildlife tracking, and birds. In addition, a tracking session on snowshoes in the Acworth Wetlands and a spring walk along Lempster's Dodge Brook to find Migratory Birds got lots of people outdoors having a great time. Many thanks to Alstead's Shedd-Porter Library for letting us hold our indoor workshops there. We also worked with the Acworth Historical Society to organize a summer walk along the river behind the Village Store to study native plants and streambanks.
- Produced the River Journal Calendar for 2004. Travis Hussey, our terrific environmental educator and AmeriCorps volunteer, completed his work with 82 students and their four teachers in grades 3-6 at Acworth, Langdon, Goshen-Lempster, and Alstead's Vilas School. Among other things, they studied water conservation, macroinvertebrates (such as stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies), and wildlife habitats. They also kept nature journals during the year. All this work contributed to a remarkable calendar, sales of which will help fund more environmental education in schools through our partnership with the Fall Mountain Educational Endowment Fund. We are grateful for support from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, the Connecticut River Partnership Program, the town of Alstead, local conservation commissions, and an anonymous grant source for assistance with projects.
- Completed our first full year of water quality monitoring using the state's VRAP equipment. Test results for pH, temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity continue to show that the Cold River generally has excellent water quality. Heavy rains, however, occasionally put large amounts of sediment into tributaries, discoloring the river and possibly disrupting aquatic life cycles in certain times of the year. Also, the state has classified parts of the river as "impaired" due to low pH values in the upper stretches of the river and high bacteria counts at Vilas Pool. We hope to expand our monitoring program in 2004 to better understand the relationship between river water quality and precipitation, land use, road salt, bacteria, wetlands, tributaries, etc. Consequently, through local donations and grants from the CT River Joint Commissions and the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, the LAC

has purchased its own water quality monitoring equipment, complete with weather station and velocity meter, as well as nets and other gear. In addition, we trained with NH DES and started a long-term biomonitoring project to track macroinvertebrate populations.

- Participated in the review of the trout habitat project in Walpole designed by the NH Coldwater Fisheries Coalition and Trout Unlimited. We acknowledge and appreciate Cold River Materials for their participation in habitat improvement, redesign of a dam, and removal of an aging overhead “trolley” in their stretch of the river.
- Continued work on a voluntary river management plan for the Cold River.

The Advisory Committee welcomes your participation on any or all of our projects. If you are interested in joining our committee, please speak with your selectboard. If there is an opening, they may make a nomination to the board. However, with or without official membership status, we welcome all volunteers! We meet on the third Thursday each month, 7-9PM, usually in the Alstead Town Offices. To be on our email notices for workshops or monitoring events, call any member to let us know.

We thank everyone who has worked with us during the past year. With your interest and enthusiasm, our work continues to be enjoyable and productive.

Sincerely, Deborah Hinman, Chair, and Pam O’Hara, Vice Chair

Acworth: Joanna Dennett (Associate member), Laura Malinoski-Adams, Deborah Hinman (835-2309)

Alstead: Howard Weeks, Mike Heidorn, and Sam Sutcliffe

Langdon: Jenny Polcari, Cathy MacDonald

Lempster: Erik Walker

Walpole: Pam O’Hara, Austin Hunter, and Charlie Montgomery (Associate member)

Agency partners:

- Vicky Boundy, Senior Planner of Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
- Steve Couture and Beth Krumrine of DES’ NH River Management and Protection Program.

Many thanks to previous CRLAC members Gordon Gowen and Torrey Greene of Acworth; Max Warren of Lempster; Duncan Watson and Tina Tidd of Walpole; Almut Yakoleff of Alstead, and Joanna Dennett of Langdon.

The UVLSRPC is a not-for-profit association of 30 communities in Vermont and New Hampshire. We provide a mechanism for communities that live, work and recreate together in the Upper Valley, Sullivan County and Lake Sunapee area to work together on issues of common concern. Each year we strive to focus on activities that will best meet the needs of each of these three areas, while we balance the differing concerns of larger and smaller communities. Your community's membership in UVLSRPC provides you with a voice in regional activities, as well as decision-making at the state level in both states that affect the future of your community.

We provide the communities of the region a mechanism to work together toward balanced growth, in part by developing and implementing a comprehensive regional plan. In 2003, we completed work on both a new Regional Transportation Plan and new Economic Development element for the Regional Plan, as well as updates on Population Trends and Natural & Scenic Resources. In other activities, we:

- Worked with area and state organizations, businesses and communities to seek opportunities to improve the balance between economic growth and residential development in the Upper Valley.
- Helped several communities obtain grant funds for a variety of projects, including emergency management equipment, village highway corridor redesign, recreation facilities and transportation system enhancements.
- Completed incorporation of Grafton County communities in North Country Economic Development District for federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant eligibility; obtained EDA approval of East-Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) developed in partnership with Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation and others to ensure business growth meets the needs of our communities; and began work with Western Region Development Corporation on CEDS for Sullivan County. Continued to support tourism organizations in the Region.
- Assisted 11 communities with updates of their master plans and 10 with local land use regulations.
- Provided technical assistance to local committees addressing a number of issues such as affordable housing, interstate interchange area development, open space, capital improvements programming, downtown revitalization, sewers, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Developed guidelines for balancing state highway needs with those of a downtown or village area utilizing a concept plan for Charlestown as a case study.
- Facilitated Upper Valley Conservation Network and provided technical assistance to Upper Valley Trackers.
- Continued our assistance to watershed organizations planning for the stewardship of the Connecticut River and its tributaries, including Lake Sunapee, and the Cold, Mascoma and Ottauquechee Rivers. Actively participated on Connecticut River Joint Commissions and Connecticut River Scenic Byway Council Steering Committee.
- Organized five hazardous waste collections that gave 1,170 households a way to keep approximately 13,100 gallons of hazardous chemicals out of the region's groundwater; and assisted with public education on household hazardous waste.

- Conducted 911 readdressing in Claremont to improve emergency response. Completed hazard mitigation plans for 4 communities as required for continued eligibility for federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funds; arranged funding to complete several more in the coming year, including all 3 Vermont towns; and continued to facilitate well-integrated emergency planning within the core Upper Valley communities.
- Provided suggestions for minimizing potential regional impacts associated with several proposed developments through Act 250 in Vermont and RSA 36:56 in New Hampshire.
- Collected traffic data in 24 communities, and completed road inventory in 5 communities to make sure that full state aid for maintenance is received. Developed plans for Upper Valley traffic model to increase ability to predict and avoid traffic increases. Provided traffic data to communities, residents and businesses on request.
- Continued to work with public transit providers serving the area's residents, employees, and visitors to identify opportunities to improve service using currently available funds, and to prioritize needs for additional funding. Assisted Upper Valley Transportation Management Association in efforts to involve area employers in programs to reduce commuter traffic.
- Provided monthly circuit rider services to 5 communities to review subdivision and site plan applications for compliance with local regulations.
- Held several informational and training sessions for local officials on land use planning issues, (including siting wind power facilities, how to avoid sprawl, and programs available to keep historic villages healthy), natural resource protection issues, (including stormwater management and Vermont's new septic rules), and board member skills, (including fostering productive citizen participation in the planning and development review processes). Facilitated discussions on future plans of Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Dartmouth College, and the Mt. Sunapee Ski area, and potential impacts on growth-related factors such as housing and traffic in the region.
- Responded to day-to-day requests from local board members and staff for guidance on, e.g., application of NH Shoreland Protection Act, policies on unmaintained roads, management of excavations, implementation of floodplain ordinances, capital improvement programming and impact fees, road acceptance policies, coordination of review of applications among various local boards, regulation of telecommunications facilities, interpretation of local land use regulations, hiring consultants, and planning and zoning board procedures.
- Continued to increase the ability of our geographic information system (GIS) to perform land use analysis and natural resource planning; provided GIS services to communities and partner organizations.
- Maintained a library with the latest technical guidance, planning literature, and sample regulations; continued to incorporate 2000 Census information into digital regional socioeconomic database as it became available; and responded to numerous requests for information from local officials, businesses, and other area organizations.

We appreciate the high level of participation and support we receive from our communities, and look forward to continuing to serve the needs of the region in the coming year. We count on feedback from the Commissioners each community appoints, as well as local officials and residents, to ensure that our work program focuses on regional issues that are of the highest priority to you. In addition, this year we have established a new committee to enhance the exchange of information with member communities. Please feel free to contact info@uvlsrpc.org or us at (603) 448-1680 to share your thoughts.

Tara E. Bamford, Executive Director

Births Registered in Acworth
January 1, 2003- December 31, 2003

Child's Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Father's Name	Mother's Name
Houde, Jamie Lynn	1/21/2003	Claremont, NH	Houde, James	Houde, Lynn
Henninger, Phoenix Rose	7/8/2003	Keene, NH	Henninger, Thomas	Clark, Casey
Bernaiche, Zoe Brianna	8/6/2003	Claremont, NH	Bernaiche, Richard	Bernaiche, Kelly
Adams, Bryn Elizabeth	9/2/2003	Lebanon, NH	Adams, Christopher	Malinoski-Adams, Laura
Gendron, Clark Thomas	10/2/2003	Keene, NH	Gendron, Hugh	Gendron, Tammy

Marriages Register in Acworth
January 1, 2003- December 31, 2003

Groom's Name	Bride's Name	Place of Marriage	Date of Marriage
Wesley Root	Bobbie Sue Willard	Acworth, NH	2/15/2003
Forest Hanna	Kathy Stiles	Acworth, NH	6/21/2003
Richard Smith	Patricia Wilson	Acworth, NH	7/26/2003
Govinda Haines	Veronica Salinas	Walpole, NH	8/03/2003
Craig Rainville	Tammy Castor	Gilsum, NH	8/10/2003

Deaths Registered in Acworth
January 1, 2003- December 31, 2003

Decedent's Name	Date of Death	Place of Death	Age
Lona Alice Nelson	2/2/2003	Unity, NH	83
John D. Lyle	2/8/2003	Acworth, NH	75
Linda McCabe Seckman	3/25/2003	Wilmington, DE	50
Thomas Coleman Seckman III	5/25/2003	Nashville, TN	21
Valerie Ann Lizotte	6/22/2003	Acworth, NH	20
Donald William Miller	9/7/2003	Keene, NH	71
Scott Anthony Russell	9/9/2003	Burlington, VT	15
Edward M. Cray	10/24/2003	Glens Falls, NY	56
Mary Frances Allen	11/23/2003	Lebanon, NH	68



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